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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Ivan Raley, First Baptist Church, Byrdstown, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and eternal Father, we humbly come before You in this hallowed place that we might seek Your wisdom for the work of these whom You have chosen to serve our Nation.

Father, there are many people in our land today who are hurting. There are people this morning who are afraid. They are confused, and they are fearful of the future and what it holds. Father, they need the help of this Congress.

God, accept this prayer as our confession of faith in You and total dependence on You. Forgive us where we have failed and fallen short. Father, You know the solution our Nation needs. Teach it to these who have been chosen to lead our Nation so that they can know Your will as well.

Father, may future generations call these who are now assembled the greatest generation. Let them be like those who came before them, who rose to their country's need and were thus called. May they say of these, they did their best. They are a great generation.

Father, God, we pray this in Your Son's name. God bless America.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3357. An act to restore sums to the Highway Trust Fund and for other purposes.

WELCOMING REV. DR. IVAN RALEY

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, it's an honor to thank my friend and pastor, Dr. Ivan Raley of First Baptist Church in Byrdstown, for joining us here today. Pastor Raley has served our church at home since 2002, and is retired after 10 years of service as regional vice president of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes in Brentwood, Tennessee.

While serving as pastor, Dr. Raley has traveled on mission trips to Venezuela, Belize, Guatemala and Mexico, and in September of 2001, he went to New York to serve as a chaplain with the police and firemen involved in the 9/11 World Trade Center attack. He also served with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Rwanda during the wars there in 1994.

I want to thank Ivan for being here today and for serving our church family for the past 7 years. I have looked to him for ministry as we continue our work in Congress to build a stronger America for our children and our

grandchildren. Through the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and now in the midst of a difficult economy, I appreciate Pastor Raley being there to join me in search of guidance and wisdom.

On behalf of my colleagues, I welcome Dr. Raley, and again, I thank him for delivering our invocation here this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona). The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MEDICAL DEBT IN AMERICA

(Ms. KILROY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KILROY. Mr. Speaker, in my district, as in many districts around the country, medical debt has been a contributing factor in bankruptcies and in foreclosures. In fact, 72 million Americans today are affected by the issue of medical debt.

Another more insidious but also serious issue that arises from medical debt, and one that costs our constituents a great deal of money, is the issue of medical debt that is paid late or is settled eventually, but paid nevertheless, but has gone to collections and is reported negatively on a credit report or a score.

Twenty-eight million Americans pay their medical debt off over a period of time. Some of those accrue debt only because of a dispute with an insurance company, some of them because of the high cost of medical care and high deductibles or caps that have been exceeded in the course of the year, some because of job loss. But that negative credit score stays with them for years to come.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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